



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-03-31

MEDIA REMINDER---JOPLIN LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

Jefferson City (September 13, 2002)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold a local public hearing in **Joplin, Missouri, on September 19, 2002**, to receive customer comment on an electric rate case filed by The Empire District Electric Company.

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission will conduct a general information session beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the local public hearing to start at 6:00 p.m., in the Matthews Hall Auditorium, Missouri Southern State College, 3950 East Newman Road.

Local public hearings are designed to give customers of The Empire District Electric Company an opportunity to comment on the electric rate case before the Commission. In addition, customers can bring any service related problems to the attention of the Commission.

On March 8, 2002, The Empire District Electric Company filed a \$19.8 million electric rate case with the Missouri Public Service Commission. At the same time, Empire sought Commission approval to reduce the interim energy charge currently in effect. The Commission, in a June decision, accepted an agreement reached by parties which reduced the interim energy charge by approximately \$7 million, or \$1.43 a month for a residential customer using 750 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month. With that agreement in place, the rate request of \$19.8 million would increase the electric rates of a residential customer using 750 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month by approximately \$4.66 above electric rates now in effect.

The Commission will hold formal hearings in Jefferson City beginning October 28, 2002. These hearings, to be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, will continue through November 8, 2002, if necessary.

The Empire District Electric Company serves approximately 128,700 electric customers in the Missouri counties of Barry, Barton, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Hickory, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Polk, St. Clair, Stone and Taney.

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